Major Oilseed	Production in (000 tonnes)	
Crops	1996-97	1997-98
Groundnut	9023.6	7580.0
Rapeseed and Mustard	6942.3	4940.0
Sunflower	1315.0	1160.0
Soyabean	5201.5	6520.0

During 1997-98, there has been a decline in the production of Groundnut, Rapeseed & Mustard and sunflower due to inclement weather, unseasonal continuous rains and cloudy weather during the sowing and growth period of the oilseed crops.

(b) The Govt. implemeting a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) for increasing the production and productivity of oilseeds and to check any decline in the production of oilseeds in the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/ pyrites, micro-nutrients, rhyzobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Govts. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organised on the farmers' fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.

Verifying claims on Nuclear Tests

1272. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article captioned "Margins of Error —Verifying claims on Nuclear Tests" which appeared in the "Times of India" dated 20th November, 1998; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The latest research papers by scientists of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) have conclusively shown that the total yield of the explosions on May 11 calculated by several different methods is about 60 kT. The papers have taken into account all available seismic data from around the world including the data mentioned in the article and also data from other close-in measurements carried out by Indian scientists. The above value for the total yield is in close agreement with the yields announced immdiately after the tests on May 11 of 15 kT for the fission device and 45 kT for the thermonuclear device (hydrogen bomb) and the sub-kiloton (less then one kiloton) device. Two more sub-kiloton devices were tested on May 13. All the five devices tested on May 11 and 13 were based on today's knowledge of Physics, Materials Science, Engineering and Electronics.

Objectives of Atomic Energy Act, 1962

1273. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all nuclear and atomic energy related activites in the country have to be carried under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962

(b) whether it is also a fact that the objective of the above mentioned act provides only for activities in the nuclear/ atomic energy sector only for peaceful purposes;

(c) whether actions contained in the Pokharan blasts in May 1998 and subsequent actions thereon are in keepping with the provisions of the said act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?